

June 27, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

James A. Noyes
Director of Public Works

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY UPCOMING REAUTHORIZATION

At their June 27, 2002 meeting, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) Board of Directors will be considering a support position for principles on the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). TEA-21, which was enacted on June 9, 1998, authorizes Federal spending on surface transportation activities. Under TEA-21, annual surface transportation funding levels are directly linked to the amount of Federal fuel tax revenue collected and deposited into the Highway Trust Fund. The TEA-21 authorization period extends through the end of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2003, which is September 30, 2003. When reauthorized, the federal legislation will continue existing transportation programs and projects or discontinue them based on the direction of Congress.

In preparation for Congressional action on TEA-21 reauthorization legislation next year, State and local stakeholders have been seeking to develop principles for the reauthorization of TEA-21. At the local level, the MTA has done an extensive amount of outreach to cities and other stakeholders in the County, including staff from the Department of Public Works staff, in drafting TEA-21 reauthorization "principles," which are actually very detailed positions. The State of California also has collaborated with stakeholders to develop TEA-21 reauthorization principles. Both the MTA's and State's principles highlight the need to guarantee and increase transportation funds, provide California with a more equitable share of overall funding, and streamline Federal procedures to obtain these funds.

Each Supervisor
June 26, 2002
Page 2

The County's Washington, D.C. advocates advise that it will be important for the County to identify TEA-21 priorities on which to focus our advocacy efforts. Moreover, both California and the County have relatively few representatives on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which has jurisdiction over TEA-21. In fact, next year when TEA-21 is being reauthorized, only one of the Committee's 75 members will be from Los Angeles County, barring a change in committee assignments.

We also believe that it is important for the County to work with other stakeholders to ensure that the upcoming reauthorization facilitates continued improvement of our County's roads. We also will be working together to develop TEA-21 reauthorization policies and identify priority road projects for inclusion in the Chief Administrative Office's Board letter on the County's Federal Agenda for the 108th Congress.

We will continue to keep you advised of any new developments.

DEJ:GK
MT:lm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel